

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-24: (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method of making a fluoride crystalline optical lithography lens element blank, said method including:

forming a fluoride crystalline melt,

crystallizing said melt into a fluoride crystalline member with a large dimension ≥ 200 mm,

annealing said fluoride crystalline member, and

qualifying the resulting member for use as an optical lithography lens element by a method selected from the group consisting of:

(a) measuring the absorption spectrum of the member from 200-220 nm for a 205 nm lead adsorption peak, and

(b) detecting radiation diffracted by the crystalline member.

Claims 26-35: (canceled)